

Remarks

Claims 1-14 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103. Two references have been cited, the first being Russell et al, U.S. Patent 5,680,645, and the second being Stillman et al, U.S. 5,551,066. Russell et al was cited for both 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103, being combined with Stillman et al, in connection with the 103 rejection.

In addition, the Examiner has requested corrected drawings. Applicant encloses herewith new drawings to replace the drawings originally filed with the application.

Applicant notes that the Russell et al reference has a filing date of November 18, 1992 and that the Stillman et al reference claims priority to a parent application filed June 7, 1993. Insofar as the current application was originally filed in 1991, and claims priority to that date, it is respectfully submitted that neither of the cited references is prior art to the claims herein and accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the application be passed to issue in due course.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter the present amendment, consider the foregoing remarks, and allow the pending claims to issue. If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would help expedite the successful prosecution of the claims, applicant's undersigned agent would be grateful for the opportunity to discuss any outstanding issues.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees due, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-0219 under order number 93905.120-US2.

Application No.: 10/720,426

Docket No.: 0093905.00120US2

Dated: January 22, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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